

She Changes
Praca Cidade San Salvador, Waterfront of Porto and Matosinhos, Portugal

Fact Sheet

Location:

Praça Cidade San Salvador - an 80-meter x 60-meter oval plaza, directly in front of the beach on the Atlantic coastline, jointly owned by the city of Porto and its neighboring city, Matosinhos. The site is also the intersection of three major roads, and features a busy oceanfront pedestrian promenade.

Client: Polis Matosinhos, Matosinhos, Portugal

Budget: 1.25 million Euros (US \$1.66 million)

Completion: 2005

Artist: Janet Echelman, Janet Echelman, Inc., www.echelman.com

Press Contact:

Melanie Peterson, Janet Echelman, Inc.: (617) 566-0770, studio@echelman.com

Design Team:

Artist: Janet Echelman

Landscape Design and Lighting: Arq. Eduardo Souto Moura, Porto

Engineer of Record, JV Partner & Structural Engineers: AFA Associados, Porto

Net Shape and Aeronautical Engineering: Peter Heppel Associates, Paris

Architectural Consultation and Renderings: Philip Speranza

Net Fabrication: Diamond Nets, Everson, WA

Twine Fabrication: Everson Cordage, Everson, WA

Fiber: W.L. Gore & Associates

Installation: Comercial Maritima L&Z,S.L, Vigo, Spain

Awards:

2006 IFAI International Achievement Award of Excellence in the category of "Architectural Structures - Other"

2005 Year in Review Award from the Public Art Network

Description:

Using color and material to invoke the memory of the site's history as a fishing and industrial center, Echelman's three-dimensional multi-layer net floats over the plaza. The net moves in the strong local winds that come off the Atlantic Ocean, assuming a multitude of forms, always changing in the weather. Resplendent in the bright noonday beach glare, the net seems placid and translucent at sunrise and takes on an entirely new demeanor under the plaza's nighttime illumination. It is monumental yet does not block the view of the ocean from any of the surrounding buildings.

Materials:

She Changes

Praca Cidade San Salvador, Waterfront of Porto and Matosinhos, Portugal

The net pioneers the use of W.L. Gore & Associates' nearly indestructible colorfast Tenara® architectural fiber as an archival sculptural material. A 100% expanded PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene) fiber whose material is otherwise most widely known as the non-stick cooking surface Teflon®. This is the first known application of Tenara® as an archival artistic material in this very demanding permanent sculpture environment, meeting strict requirements for color permanence, UV resistance, temperature extremes and salt water among others.

Size:

160' height x 300' width x 240' depth (49m height x 91m width x 73m depth)

Structure:

Three steel poles, ranging in height from 25 to 50 meters, are painted white with red stripes to reference nearby smokestacks and lighthouses. These poles support a 20 ton steel ring, 45 meters in diameter, from which is suspended the net, which itself weighs about a ton. The ring greets the ocean at a slant, ranging from 13.5 meters off of the ground at the lowest point and 27m at the highest. Coloration of the net is red and white stripes continuing the smokestack reference.

The net is comprised of 36 individual mesh sections in different densities, hand-joined along all sides into a multi-layered form. The densest section of the net has interstices 1.5 inches on a side, and the sparsest section has interstices 6 inches on a side. The shape is held two intermediate cinch ropes.

More Information:

http://www.echelman.com/site/phoenix_project.html